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INTERVIEW
SHERRI MARTEL

The following interview with Sensational Sherri Martel, who was officially released from her contract by the WWF on July 15 (about two months before she was planning to leave anyway), was conducted via telephone from her home near Birmingham, Alabama on July 18.

John Clark: Could you describe your childhood and interests that you had growing up?

Sherri Martel: I'm one of two daughters. My mother raised two girls by herself. My sister's younger, she's 32. I'm 35. My sister used to always love to go horseback riding. And I was born to rollerskating. I always used to get mad at her because she wouldn't take me, but she said I was such a sissy. When my mom would take us fishing when we were little--that was kind of like our family thing together--I would never want to put worms on my own hook. So she's always thought I was a sissy. And getting into wrestling, that's quite contradictory to the sister she had grown up to know. My mom is divorced, and she's a chef. We've pretty much got a close-knit family. There are no arguments in our house because we all feel that there's nothing that we can't sit down and openly discuss with each other. My mom's kind of cool. Her birthday is April 9, and her biggest thing was going out to Vegas to the Wrestlemania and stuff like that. But before that she worked really hard raising two girls on her own, actually. But I live with my mom now, I'm paying her place off. And it's just that I guess every child of their parents wants to do something for them, to set them up in their later years so they don't have to worry about that kind of thing. It's always been really important to me if I ever made everything really good, I wanted to just make sure that she was taken care of. Because God knows, her and each and every parent alive has had their share of hard knocks. Let's face it, it's not an easy world to live in. It doesn't seem like it's getting any better, looking at CNN and reading the papers and everything.

Clark: What kind of education did you go through?

Martel: I went through high school. And I was going to go to college, but decided not to. I went into hair styling. And at the time I went through the whole course except for 200 hours, and then I kind of got sidetracked and I started getting interested in wrestling. So I put that on hold, which is something I'm about to renew again. I'm going back to beauty school. While I was in the tenth grade I won an art scholarship to the University of Missouri, as I was always really good at free-hand and charcoal drawings and still-life compositions. I've never been too good with people, I kind of draw stick people. I think I do a lot better on horses and animals and anything that's pretty much still-life. I'm not very good at drawing houses or designing houses, however I've been diddling with them a little bit lately, and it's getting a little bit better.

Clark: What is it that you're going to be doing now and are there any other fields you're interested in exploring or looking into?

Martel: Right at the present time the only thing I really want to get back into is school and get my cosmetology license because I'd like to plan to open a beauty salon with all the pictures and everything of all the people that I've met during my wrestling career. I'm going to put that in the front room and the entrance way. It's just going to take me a little time. I just have to go through a nine month course to get my licence again, because all my previous hours are revoked. It's just one of those things that you have to go through. Nothing of value is gained easily. You don't appreciate it as much if it's just given to you.

Clark: Were there any other careers you wanted to get into before you got into wrestling or when you were growing up?

Martel: I went through a nursing aide course because my mother at one time was a nurse's aide. She also worked in the kitchen and dietary department. My mom is an exquisite cook. That's my only downfall at home. I'm no different than anybody else, there's no cooking like your mom's cooking. But I finished the nursing aide training. That was pretty cool and everything but it was kind of depressing and I realized that there are people out there that care and help, but I didn't see myself going through life doing it. I wanted to be more creative with my mind and with my hands. That's quite contradictory compared to thirteen years of beating my body up. Hopefully, I've gained a little knowledge along the way.

Clark: What was it about the professional wrestling business that first got you interested in it?

Martel: My mom took me when I was real little. I had wanted to be a clown. But it's kind of like you have to grow up to be in that position, and kids are trained from the time they're toddlers on up for that profession. So that was out because it's relatively a family oriented business. But my mom started taking me to wrestling when I was relatively young. It kind of stuck with me. I remember the very first match I ever went to see was in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, it was Cowboy Bob Kelly against The Outlaw Frank Daulton. During school break she would drag me and my sister up there and make us watch it on TV. I said, "No, I don't want to watch that." At first I didn't really care for it because I just thought it was just some other goofy thing that guys like to do, and I wasn't interested in it. But after she got me into going with her, as everybody else can tell you, it's addicting. It's very

addicting. She took me and I finally got to the point where I really started getting interested and I started thinking to myself, I can do that. I was taking a little gymnastics in school, and it was required with P.E. I was probably fifteen at that time. It would be five and a half, six years later before I would even get to where I could go to a school anywhere. I got to know the promoter there--it was Mid South that was running down there--it was LeRoy McGuirk, Grizzly Smith, Bill Watts. I was fifteen at the time, and not long after that I went and I talked to Grizzly Smith and he told me that I was too young and to come back and see him in about five years, if I was still interested. So I did what he told me to. I got everything together--finished school, got all my priorities, what I wanted done--then I went back to him when I was twenty, after I had been married and had my son Jared. I was divorced at that time. I sat down at what I thought was going to be the most exciting breakfast of my life with someone because I actually had to sell myself and convince this person (Grizzly Smith) that was in this "phenomenal business" that I wanted to be in, that this is what I really wanted to do. He talked to me and he told me all of the bad things, like being away from home and what it does to your body after a certain amount of time and he kept going over just the rugged parts of the business, which made me more infatuated because I think that he was trying to convince me that this is really not what young ladies should do. So after the breakfast was finally finished, he sat there for about ten minutes just staring at me, and just staring at me. I'm sitting there thinking, "Did I say something wrong? Have I not convinced him? What in the hell do I have to do to convince this man this is what I want? If he doesn't give it to me, I'll find it somewhere else." So after about ten to fifteen minutes, he looked at me and he said, "Now Sherri, are you sure? Have you thought this out?" And I said yeah. And he said, "It's going to be a lot of hard work and it's not going to be easy. The working conditions aren't that easy for a woman. You're always going to be a woman in a male dominated business." Well that didn't bother me too much, and I said okay. And he said okay. So after that he went and called Moolah, Lilian Ellison, and her camp was in Columbia, South Carolina. I was sent to go there about two months later. That was probably in '80.

Clark: Was it tough for you being a woman trying to break into what was thought to be a male's business?

Martel: Well, the first thing I did before I even went to Grizzly Smith was, I was living in Memphis, Tennessee, and I had two roommates--we were kind of like *Three's Company*--they were Diane and Bobby. Bobby was a wrestler also, and we kind of had a little thing going there. And one day I sat him down and I told him about what I wanted to do. This is probably the latter part of '78 going into '79. He would get me down and put me in figure-fours and different holds. I had no idea what he was doing. He would hurt me and he would try to discourage me in that way. But that didn't discourage me. He made me promise and swear that I would not try to get in the business, that I would forget about it. He said, "You can do something else. You go back to beauty school, get your license, have your nice salon. Do things that girls are supposed to do." I said, "To hell with that. This is what I want to do." But I told him I wouldn't do it. So I went behind his back for about six months and I went to this school in Memphis, Tennessee where I got a basic idea of what I was up against. It was Butch Moore's wrestling school. I probably was there for about a year. After that, that's when I went and made my pitch to Grizzly Smith, and he in turn sent me to Moolah, where I got polished up. I was sent to Japan in January and February of '81 for eight weeks. I was basically new, still going through a lot of stuff. I had just been through a rigorous workout getting ready to go to Japan and being polished by Moolah and the other girls that I was there with at the time. It was a great big fantasy world, it was like a fantasy come true. I've always known in the back of my mind it was a male dominated business, but also knew that there was a place for women there also. So that didn't discourage me too much. And as soon as everybody realized that I was there for business and not to be their entertainment, so to speak--like everybody picks on the new person in the group--but after they realized that I was very serious about my job and and what I wanted to do, they began to help me out a little bit more. I had lots of help from lots of guys. Frank (Bruiser) Brody was one of them, who was one of my dearest friends--I knew him since I was sixteen years old--Stan Hansen, and right before he died, I had the best compliment that anybody's ever given me in my life from Buddy Rogers. I have a picture with him and Ric Flair at the convention in New York at the Ramada that I wouldn't take a million dollars for. He told me that I was the best in the game today, and he wrote that on my picture. That's a hell of a compliment coming from a man from his era. I think he was absolutely fabulous.

Clark: Were there ever any situations or problems when you were breaking into the business or later on, where you were held back because you were a woman?

Martel: No, not really. You know men are going to be men, and they tease you a little bit and everything. But once they figured out that I wasn't there for their entertainment and that I was there to work, you have to get to the point where you have to stand on your own two feet. The only thing I've ever wanted in this business was a dressing room where I could go to the bathroom in privacy and take a shower when I finish working. As soon as the guys figured out that I wasn't going to be anything more than business--it came pretty much down to guys and girls, and eventually it got to where I was kind of like everybody's little sister. And I was always there for them to talk when they needed a feminine point of view or if they had problems. I tried to always be there and be considerate of them. As time went on year after year, they gave me the same. Respect is not given, it has to be earned.

Clark: How would you describe your years in the AWA and what kind of an experience was it for you?

Martel: I was living in Nashville at the time. I think it was in 1984. I had worked for the Memphis territory after I got back from another tour in Japan. I flew back up to Minneapolis and Larry Zbyszko met me there. He took me over to the office. Larry and I went in and we talked to Greg Gagne. They were looking for a manager, and so they asked me if I would be willing to relocate. And I said sure. They gave me a starting date there and told me I was going to manage Buddy Rose and Doug Somers. In the beginning part of my career I had managed Buddy. I was one of his first rose buds with Vince Sr. It (AWA) was really hard for a while because it was my first time actually working in a territory where I was working on my own. I wasn't under Moolah or anyone else, so I was kind of on my own. And it really felt good and I felt like I was really accomplishing a lot. They were some of the greatest times of my life up there. Kathy Gagne and Larry Zbyszko are married now and have two babies. Kathy was always one of my best friends. The road up there was great because you got to be home a lot more. Comparing it to the rigorous schedule that I had with Vince, hell, that seems like candy now. I had lots of good years there. I learned a lot from Verne Gagne and everybody there that I worked with. There was Scott Hall, who is now Razor Ramon, and Colonel DeBeers, Buddy and Doug. The Rockers, who would have ever thought that I would be working with Marty and Shawn at the time when I was working there? Because at that point in my career, I was going to be a bad girl forever and ever. I never wanted to be a good girl.

Clark: When were you the happiest in your career in wrestling?

Martel: My most happiest time in the wrestling business came July 15, 1993, when I was released and I got my life back. So I can quit living out of a suitcase now. And I actually have a bedroom, I can't believe it. I had costumes all over the place, so now I've got all those tucked away. But if you're talking about wrestling, it was each and every Wrestlemania that I was in and the two years that I worked with Randy Savage and Hulk Hogan. That will probably be my most memorable, happiest time that I ever had.

Clark: After working for and dealing with Vince McMahon for about the past six years, what are your personal feelings on him as a businessman and as a person?

Martel: Vince is no different than any other businessman. For six years I worked for him. It's the only job that I've ever had in my life where I didn't have to worry about sexual harassment. It was a very rigorous schedule, but he is a businessman and I worked for him, so therefore I did my job to my fullest potential. I hope that he also thinks so because we split on really good terms. So everything's pretty cool with me and them up there. But I think he's an excellent businessman. I'm talking from a talent point of view so I can't really give you any insight on anything in the office. As far as everything goes, he runs a very tight ship and he demands perfection from his people that work for him. But like I said, there was never a birthday that went by or a Christmas that I didn't get a birthday or Christmas card from him and his family. He was good to me for six years, and I'm going to miss him. There's maybe a possibility in the future where I may go back, but at this point in time right now I'd kind of like to just worry about staying off the road. But then again, Vince knew that I was kind of getting burnt out and everything, so it really came as no surprise to me (her release from the company). But six years for a woman in the same place is a very long time in this business, you have to consider. I think I had the longest run there than any woman that's been anywhere.

Clark: Were there ever times where Vince reached out to you as a human being and not necessarily as just an employee, to help you out?

Martel: Yeah. About three years ago, I caught pneumococcal pneumonia. That was the same thing that killed Jim Henson. We were in Rochester or Syracuse, New York, and I had stayed back at the hotel. I couldn't get out of bed. The pneumonia that I had, my blood wasn't building. My muscles were starting to grow up in all my limbs and it felt like I was having labor pains in my legs, and I could hardly walk. Randy had driven me from the town the night before to a place less than 60 miles from Rochester. I was going to do my damndest to go on. I was working with Randy, and Randy came out and saw me as white as a sheep. I was getting the makeup job on and Randy looked at me, he said, "You can't go out there like this. You're sick, you need to go to the hospital." I just started crying and everything just seemed to cave in on me. Randy called Vince up there. And he said, "Sherri, what's wrong?" And I said, "I don't know. I feel like I'm having a baby in my legs. I'm tired, I can't eat nothing, I can't keep anything in my stomach. I'm throwing up, nothing there." He said, "You're going to the hospital." So they carried me back down to my dressing room and let me lay down because the cramps were becoming a lot more frequent now and my breathing was getting harder. They took me to the Geneses Hospital in Rochester, New York, and they did all kinds of blood work on me. They told me that I had probably maybe two inches more room left in my lungs to breath because my lungs were filling up with fluid. So they admitted me and they told me that all the potassium in my body was almost gone. They made me drink pure potassium. They told me that my blood wasn't rebuilding itself, the white blood cells weren't rebuilding. So they put me in a private room and I had all kinds of tubes coming out of me and they put me on this oxygen thing. I don't remember much after they told me they were going to admit me. I think I kind of passed out. I was in my room and I woke up and I turned my head, and Vince McMahon and Pat Patterson were there standing beside my bed. I looked up at him, I said, "Hey, toots." That was kind of a nickname I had for him. I said, "Pat, what are you guys doing here? You're supposed to be on the way to the next town?" And he said, "We had to come and check and see how you were." And I said, "Well, that was awful nice of you." So they stayed a few more minutes. He smiled at me, and he and Pat both kind of took my hand. And it was really nice because I realized that he did care about the people that worked for him and he took it out of his time to come and see me and see how I was doing. Over the next couple of days there were flowers coming in from the office. Randy and Liz at that time were still married, I had flowers from them. It's one of the most memorable things that I'll have with Vince. Nobody can take that away from me. People can say what they want, but Vince McMahon's got as big a heart as anybody else and he's just as vulnerable as anybody else, and he's just as caring. He was a very wonderful man to me for six years, a wonderful boss, somebody that taught me a whole lot. It's just one of those things I'll carry with me for the rest of my life.

Clark: How has your attitudes towards life and the pro wrestling business changed after working for the WWF for six years?

Martel: I'm looking at it very optimistically. I'm very eager to start a second phase of my life and another career, a totally different career. I've learned a lot from being on the road for so long but it's time for me now, there comes a point in time in everybody's life where they have to say, "Look, you have to get your s--t together. It's time to stop being a gypsy." That time came within the last nine months for me. Actually, it was about the last year and a half that I had been thinking about it. Vince was aware of my feelings. As was I of his, because he was coming to a point where he couldn't do anything more with me and I was getting to the point to where I couldn't stand living on the road anymore. I kind of drove everybody crazy and everybody thought I had PMS 24 hours a day. But I'm looking forward to just staying at home. I'm going to do some personal appearances. I'm going to take care of my aquariums and spend some time with my animals, and get re-acquainted with my family. I'm going to try to set up a normal life here and try to get back into the swing of just being a regular citizen again, instead of being a gypsy for so long.

Clark: Was there ever a point in your career where you were kind of living a fantasy life or thought you were?

Martel: No, it was never a fantasy life. It was a career that I knew was limited and would not last forever. So I always kept my perspectives in the right place. Nothing involved in the entertainment world or things like that last forever, because a woman's body just can't take it, to be honest. I've got my suitcases over there, I've got all my wrestling gear packed up, I've got my boots packed up, and I'm clearing all of that out of here. It was fun while it lasted and I accomplished many, many things that I'm very proud of, but you can't dwell on the past either. Goals are made for things in the future and things that you can dedicate yourself to. I finished up what I set out to do as far as the wrestling business goes and I wouldn't trade anything for not one day of it. But it's time now for me to get on to something hopefully bigger and better.

Clark: During your six years with the WWF, how did your level of enthusiasm, interest, and motivation change during that time?

Martel: The motivation itself wasn't the work. The only thing that really got to me was the travelling all the time because it's very strenuous on your body and it has its way of aging you far before your time. My motivation came when it was time to go to work. I knew that when I went out there that I had to give those people 150% because they had paid their hard earned dollars to buy the tickets. Let's face it, wrestling tickets these days are about as much as concert tickets are. And I wanted those people out there to be happy that they came out there, no matter if they booed, hissed, and said all kinds of stuff to me. That was their way of getting rid of any type of anxieties and in turn I got rid of a lot of my anxieties by agitating them, which is what I was there for. It was just one of those times, there's not anyone out there that I truly hated or anything like that. But you know what really bothered me more than anything? Is that I'd see these little kids sitting ringside when I was a bad guy, and when I would go out there--I was brought up in a Baptist background, and so my thing is "yes, mam" and "no, mam," "yes, sir" and "no, sir," "thank you," "no thank you" and "have a good evening," and "thank you for calling, and this, that, and the other--but these little kids were out there calling me c--t, slut, whore, and all kinds of stuff. And this is coming out of the mouths of eight, nine, ten year olds, some of them younger. And what was really crazy was that the parents were sitting there just smiling and saying, "Well, isn't he cute? You hear what he said? He called her a bitch!" It just really makes me wonder what's happening with the parents' values that they're bringing their kids up with these days. With a lot of the stuff that's coming on, the way the world is, it doesn't surprise me, but I just kind of wonder what happened to old-fashion values.

Clark: Do you think the wrestling product today influences that kind of behavior from children and people in general at all?

Martel: I'll tell you what, you see a lot more in movies with violence and things like that as opposed to what you see in wrestling. You have to keep wrestling in its proper perspective. Wrestling is wrestling entertainment. It's entertainment, which means that you go out there and you enjoy yourself. And basically everybody knows what's going on anyway. You just go out there and you have to keep it in its proper perspective. Again, that just leads me back to where, why are the kids being brought up this way? That had a lot to do with me thinking about my career too because when I was a bad guy my son had lots of really, really negative peer pressure in school. And I didn't actually realize until the last three years what my career was doing to him as far as the peer pressure. My son, he just turned fifteen yesterday, he had lots and lots of problems with being peer pressured. It's gotten a little bit better after I turned good guy. The kids, they can be very terrible to each other without really meaning to be, but they're very honest because their minds aren't really screwed up by everything. I think if people would take more time and select what kids watch and if moviemakers would take a little bit more time and see that movies sell other than violence and sex. I know that's contradictory to my character the whole time I've been in the business but I just have a hard time comprehending why parents let their kids do stuff like that. I think that's probably the only thing that really bothered me in the business--I'd see these young kids out there and then I'd see the parents doing the same. I know where they get it from, because the parents are doing the same thing. And I don't think that they should serve alcoholic beverages at the shows because alcohol gives a person a certain amount of liquid courage, which is not very good. And people aren't always on their best behavior when they're intoxicated either.

Clark: Were there ever times where a fan would get really out of control and say nasty things to you that caused you to become really upset or stirred up your emotions?

Martel: There were a couple of times in Philly where this guy was really aggravating me. He was starting to use four letter words and bad words so I wouldn't even start the show. I got the security guard and I pointed him out. The security guard heard him, and fortunately the security in Philly is one of the best anywhere. The guy was slurring vulgarity all over the place when there were children around this ring. I had enough things to deal with other than this guy throwing all kinds of stuff around. I told the security guard I've got a fifteen year old at home and that I don't even bring him to the shows anymore because of people like this.

Clark: But you were always able to separate it from your emotions?

Martel: Oh, yeah. One of the things I learned early on was to never lose control at ringside. Never, ever lose control. You can't do that (let your emotions come into it). You can save it for the dressing room. You can go back there and cry if it bothers you. I think you should never lose your control of any situation.

Clark: Do you feel the main reason the feud with you and Luna Vachon was promoted was because they wanted to display a good women's match with good athletics and competition or because they basically wanted to sell a T&A deal?

Martel: I think the motive behind it was it was time for me, my time was almost up, and so they needed another girl. And Luna Vachon came in. She's very athletic, she's very young, she's very ninety-ish. Her and Bam Bam Bigelow actually are going to make a really good team, I think. It's a little bit of T&A, but that's in anything. Regardless of what you do, there's going to be T&A. I think she's really going to be good. After six years, everybody looking at me, it's about time for a change anyway.

Clark: Do you have any reservations today about the angles they did with you and The Ultimate Warrior such as the thing at Madison Square Garden where he was literally ripping your clothes off and night after night he was press slamming you and beating you up?

Martel: Ah, no. My body feels it now. At the time, it was business and I did what I had to do. I always tried to keep as well covered as I possibly could in case something of that nature did happen, which happened when it did constantly happen. But I always tried to make sure that I imagined my son was sitting out there and just to do my best, and that I was trying to take care of his college fund and pay for my mom's place. All of those things took priority over me getting my clothes ripped off. Sure, a couple of times there it came kind of close, but I'd like to think that everything was fully covered. Hell, they've seen less on the beach than what I wore.

Clark: So you look at those things as just part of the job?

Martel: Yeah, yeah. That goes back to getting your priorities and everything in the right place. Isn't that what we all do a job for?

Clark: What basically made you decide to leave the WWF?

Martel: Number one--it was their choice along with my choice. I'd been there six good years, but it was time for me to come off the road. I feel the need for a change in my life, to do something else. Instead of beating my body up, now I want to use my brains and my hands, which have been out of whack for a little while. That way I won't hurt my body, and hopefully I can have a successful beauty salon. I was supposed to leave after SummerSlam but I'm actually glad and I was actually hoping that they would decide to give me an earlier release.

Clark: What situation or role were you most comfortable in and most happy with--managing Randy Savage, Shawn Michaels, or Ted DiBiase?

Martel: All three, each and everyone of them are great. They're great guys and I felt privileged to work for them. Ted never struck me as the type of person that needed a manager. It kind of added to it there for awhile after the Virgil thing went off, so that kept me going. That was kind of like an undershot in the arm too. But I became very, very comfortable working with Randy Savage because he's the type of man, during our interviews, where we did all the wild stuff and everything, he's the type of person that makes you want to bring out the best in yourself that you possibly can. He and his wife helped me through a really, really bad time with my ex-husband. They kept me from having a nervous breakdown because I went through a really, really bad marriage and I about lost everything that I had because of him. But Randy was there for me. Anytime I needed somebody to talk to he was there, and Liz at the time was also. It was very saddening for me when I heard about their separation and divorce because when I first started working with Randy and everything was going really good--my income was really good and I had a great partner to work with--but I went a little bit overboard there because I wanted everything. I wanted my cake and I wanted to eat it too. I wanted my career and I wanted a home life also, which made me a little bit vulnerable. So I met this guy, my ex-husband, and I wanted a relationship like Randy and Liz's, but I forgot that that type of relationship takes a long time. And he was pretty much a gold-digger. If my mom could see him right now she'd blow his head off. And so would anybody else in my family. And a few other people that I know of too. I think that was my most memorable time, being in Europe with Randy and Liz and working with Hogan.

Clark: Was there anybody else that they wanted to put you with or was there anybody else you wanted to manage?

Martel: I always wanted to manage The Nasty Boys because they were always funny, they're always so up, and they've always had such good attitudes and everything. I just talked to Brian the other day and I just found out that Missy Hyatt is starting as their new manager. I think they'll make a great trio. Before, I had heard, this is just hearsay, they

were going to try to put me with Davey Boy Smith. And then Davey Boy took the option to get his contract released. After that had happened, this was around the time where Shawn and I were fixing to do the big break off, Pat Patterson asked me at TV if I could still wrestle. And I said, "Sure, I can still wrestle." So I knew at that point that they were going to bring another girl in. But who it was, I just had to find out. So I talked to Vince, "Look here toots, Pat asked me if I could wrestle again. I told him yes. And if you're going to bring another girl in, I'd like to know who it is so I can do some background work on it." And he said, "Well, I'm not sure yet." I said, "Yes, you do know. You can't tell me you don't know. You know everything six months to a year ahead of time." So he said, "We want somebody that's more outrageous than you are." So I said, "Who do you have in mind?" And he said Luna Vachon. I had spent six weeks with Luna Vachon in Japan in 1986. I yelled and screamed, I was so happy. I kind of got the feeling at that point, even though they hadn't said anything, that she would be the one carrying the baton after I left. It's kind of like a woman's intuition thing.

Clark: After you stopped wrestling full-time in the WWF and became a manager, do you think the fans perception of you changed at all?

Martel: You've got your die-hard wrestling fans and then you've got the people that just want to see you out there. The die-hard wrestling fans wanted me to start back wrestling again. Of course, women's wrestling has been gone for so long, and I think they were really kind of happy when it came back. And unfortunately, I wasn't willing to put my body through all of the last thirteen years all over again. But if there's going to be somebody taking my place, I'm glad that it was Angel Vachon. I really am. I wish her nothing but the best. And I hope she has as successful six years or if not more as I did.

Clark: What's your relationship with her today?

Martel: I wish her nothing but the best. There's a time to go to work and there's a time to stop. Angel has two children and she comes from a phenomenal wrestling family. I think she's going to be really good for the business, and I think she's going to be good for the WWF. I think her children, her mom and her dad are going to be really proud of her.

Clark: Did you object to being turned babyface and was it difficult for you to adjust to that role?

Martel: Yeah, it was because the first six months that I was at Moolah's I was a babyface there. I was babyface then because she always said I had a cute face, which I couldn't figure out what she was talking about because I always wanted to paint up and everything. I always wanted to get on a little something extra. She said no, no, no. But then we were in Columbia, South Carolina working on a show there for Crockett at the time. I was a heel that night, and I've been a heel ever since. But I had no objections to turning babyface when they finally did turn me, as long as it was done in the right way, and it was captivating to the fans. It did the most for Shawn, who did it, and it did a hell of a thing for Marty, and so it actually benefitted everybody all the way around.

Clark: Why do you think Elizabeth was able to become so popular as a character without her actually saying very much?

Martel: Mostly because it was always Randy Savage's persona in the ring and everybody loved Randy for so long, and then Elizabeth just became a natural part of that. You know, when you saw one, you saw the other. She's always so gentle and so fragile looking. She was always there by Randy's side, good or bad, it never mattered. And I think that's why the public took to her so easily. She was kind of like what a lot of women want to do--stand by the person that they really love and care about. When her and Randy were married, I remember the look in her eyes and the look in his eyes. And I envied that, and I think that's what got me on the wrong track and into that marriage that wasn't so good. But Elizabeth will never be forgotten. She'll have her own space in time forever.

Clark: I've talked to many wrestlers before who've said, "Boy, Sherri was the hardest working person on the card tonight." I mean, do you take a lot of pride in the hard work that you did out there and that you became one of the best managers in the business?

Martel: Yes, but that was my ultimate goal. I've always wanted to be the best at anything. My mom always told me and all my friends always told me that in order to be successful, you've got to do your best and put your best out there and give of yourself. You've got to give not 110%, but 150%, if not more. It was important to me, because it never left my mind also that I was in a male dominated business. And God, look at the people that I had to work with. I had to get out there and give it everything I had. I mean, some of the most famous names in this business were out there that I had to work beside. I looked at it as I had to come up to their par. I had to come up to their level where I wanted to be good enough to work beside them, where I would compliment the match and not take anything away from it.

Clark: How do you think Sensational Sherri was able to become a good drawing power on her own?

Martel: I think it was because of the hard work and I think it was because of the television time. Vince McMahon has a way of putting you across on the screen and it makes the fans more curious about you, and makes them want to come to see you--more curiosity to, "God, is she really that nasty? God, is she really that mean? God, how could anybody stand to be around her?" While I was working with Vince we weren't allowed to actually talk to anybody outside of his press and his magazine. So I kind of kept pretty quiet anyway. I wasn't ever one to really try to get in the limelight but while I was there I made sure my presence was known because that was my job.

Clark: What kind of image do you think you have towards the public?

Martel: A professional one, I hope (laughs). I can understand why there would be some negativity there, as far as my characters. But with the intelligence of the human race, I hope that they're able to see through my characters. Working with the WWF, they don't like the person themselves portraying the character to really get acquainted with the public that much. That keeps the mystery in the character. It keeps people interested, I think. Which is nothing bad on them, that's the way they want things, and that's fine. But everybody has to realize just because that person is on TV portraying a character doesn't necessarily mean that that's how they are in person. And people have to bear that in mind. A lot of people can't separate fantasy from reality. And I've always really tried to do that, and that's why I've been able to pretty much keep my feet on the ground and not get caught up in all the glamour and glory, so to speak. I enjoyed it while it was there and it was fun, but also I knew where I came from. When I would come back home I had no problems putting on tennis shoes and a pair of jeans and pushing a lawnmower, mowing the lawn.

Clark: Do you like the way they're portraying Boni Blackstone's character on television?

Martel: I don't know too much about Boni Blackstone. I'll tell you who I'd rather see in her place, Mike McGuirk. Because in my opinion Mike McGuirk has a better persona in front of the TV camera and when she talks to the wrestlers, she gets the point across. An interviewer that's out there like Boni is doing, her job is to make these guys look good, not just sit there and drool. Another thing that I don't particularly care about her is that she doesn't wear a bra, which is very obvious when you watch TV. But I just think Mike McGuirk would have been a much better choice. But then again, that's only my personal opinion. I was in the dressing room a few times with Boni, and she's a nice person. I've got nothing against her. But as far as professionally speaking, I think Mike McGuirk would have made a much better interviewer. I wish she would do more, as far as interviews goes, because she can pull off an

interview like you wouldn't believe. And she comes from a wrestling background also. She's actually got an edge over Boni Blackstone. Plus, she's been around a lot longer.

Clark: For the most part, how do you feel the few women that are left in the business get over with public?

Martel: I think with them getting over, the women can only go out there and do so much. It's the promoter's job to promote them and everything. The women can get out there and do their job, but when it comes to them getting over, I think that's really in what kind of publicity that they get, what kind of promotions that the promoters are doing. I think that it's really terrible that some of the promoters aren't using more women. Granted, there aren't that many left. But the ones that are still out there, they're still doing independents and they're still just as good as they were.

Clark: Are you sad to see that women's wrestling has basically been eliminated here in America?

Martel: Yeah, it's actually like a dying breed. It's like another form of our business is being pushed in the back. If I would have known years ago, I wouldn't change anything. But I guess there's some women that don't actually realize what it takes to be in this business and what kind of punishment that your body takes. Let's face it, a woman's body is definitely not meant to beat on. It's really hard out there, and I really think that the GLOW girls hurt us a lot because, in my opinion, they weren't wrestlers, they just took a bunch of tapes of "How To's" and this and that. And that was a little bit more T&A than anything else, thank you Jackie Stallone. But you can't take somebody that's just watched a tape and doesn't have any experience in a ring. Without ring psychology, you can't expect her to get out there and give you a quality match. There aren't very many women left around today that can do that because there's nobody to teach them anywhere.

Clark: Did you have any desire at all to work over in Japan after you were set to leave the WWF this year?

Martel: I'm thinking about maybe going over there. I'm going to call the Inoki and Baba offices and see if they're going to be interested in having a female manager. But like I said, that would only be like for maybe a couple of weeks or something like that. I don't really want to be gone from home a whole lot anymore. But Japan's always been really good to me. One of the last times when I was over there Brody was there too, and so I have really fond memories of that. I'm going to do a lot of things but I don't really want to get back into wrestling now. I think my wrestling time itself has passed.

Clark: Did you suffer any severe injuries in your career, and do you feel the effects of any of them today?

Martel: I was really fortunate for thirteen years because the only thing I had was two dislocated legs. As far as for anything really permanent, just regular aches and tendonitis and stuff like that. The only thing really bad that ever happened to me was that pneumonia that I had and that kept me in the hospital for two weeks. In early '83 I was in a mixed men's and women's battle royal in Jackson, Tennessee, and I was working for the Jarrett Promotions. I did something really stupid and I lost my balance, and I went down. And Uncle Elmer, Stan Frazier, fell on my leg and it dislocated it, and for a long time I had to wear a brace up to my thigh. That was pretty painful. The doctors wanted to operate and Moolah said, "Don't let them operate. It's a minor injury and it will be okay." I took that advice. It carried through, but it still goes out on me every now and then. But that happens when you're working in such a physical contact sport. The other one was when Marty Janetty hit me over the head with the mirror. Some of the fragments of the glass went in my eyes.

Clark: For the most part, do you feel male wrestlers, promoters, and fans in this country respect women in the wrestling business, or do you think some of the things like GLOW hurt their image?

Martel: I think that hurt the GLOW girls, all the girls that were connected with that particular business. There are a few girls out there that still have that respect, but it took them a lot of years to earn. You have to earn their respect, it's not something that's usually given.

Clark: What are your personal feelings on the character Missy Hyatt portrays?

Martel: I think Missy portrays her character well. She does what she has to do to get the character over and to give the fans what they want. She's very particular in everything that she does. I know that because I know her. But she does everything to the best of her professional ability, I believe. Each and every character for a woman I think has to come from inside them and they have to build on that. And Missy has a lot of confidence in herself, as does Angel. Hell, there's no extent to where you can take her. You can put her in just about any type of situation and she could work her way out of it.

Clark: What are your personal opinions of Madusa Miceli?

Martel: Don't have any. I have nothing to say about her.

Clark: Jim Cornette was your first manager when you started in wrestling. I was wondering what it was like for you to work with him and what you personally think of him?

Martel: I think Jim Cornette is one of the most wonderful and talented men that I've ever met. He was a photographer when he first started out in the business and he worked his way up just like any professional would. He became wonderful at his job and his persona in front of people, and what he can do with a crowd is just exceptional. I would do just about anything in the world for Jim Cornette. I really value his friendship and I feel very privileged to call him my friend.

Clark: How has being in the wrestling business for thirteen years effected your personal life, such as your marriages, your relationship with your son, and relationships with friends?

Martel: My personal life for thirteen years was the s--ts. I've been married three times. It was ten years in between my second and third marriage, and my last marriage was a divorce. My son is by my second ex-husband. People looked at me as Sensational Sherri or Sensational Queen Sherri instead of being Sherri. For a long, long time though I've been able to keep my personality separate so when I'm at home everybody just treats me like Sherri. And when I'm on the road, I'm Sensational Sherri. It's kind of hard when you're in front of the fans, you kind of have to keep up that. Not to the point where you're rude or anything, but it's just a part of you that you have to keep private. Like I've got kids coming by here all the time, which I don't mind. They see my Blazer outside so they'll know that I'm home. And they'll yell out when I'm sitting out on the deck. And the kids, they're our next generation. They're the ones that are going to be running our country. So I always try to put forth a good attitude to everybody regardless of whether I was a heel or a babyface in the business. I tried never to be mean to be kids because I know how that can be. My son had to go through a really difficult period because he seemed to think just because I was on TV and anything else that I was made out of money and that he could have anything he wanted because his mom was Sensational Sherri. Well, that's where all the BS stopped. He sat down and got a really, really quick attitude adjustment. For his birthday he wanted me to get him a dirt bike. I told him absolutely not. My son is like 6'2" and 240 pounds. He just turned fifteen yesterday. Since I was in the wrestling business I was able to see him probably two or three times a year. But now, since I'm out, I'm planning on him spending next summer with me. He told me he is going to be with his dad this year on Christmas.

Clark: Is catching up on time with him one of the things that you're

most looking forward to now that you're basically out of wrestling?

Martel: Yeah, because it's like I messed up on it and missed out on him growing up because I was on the road. There are so many things that I missed out on. But now I can catch up on it. I realize that they're not going to be the same as it was before, but I can deal with that. Nothing is the same, it changes day to day. The only thing that I regret is that I lost a lot of time with him. He actually got to know Sensational Sherri before he actually got to know Mom. It's really hard for someone to comprehend what you're like when they're only with you probably six weeks of the year and from just talking to them on the phone.

Clark: Were you ever ashamed or upset about the role you were playing in the wrestling business?

Martel: Only when it had a negative effect on my son. That's the only time. He started having really bad problems at school because of my character. This starting happening about a year and a half, two years ago. When everybody found out that I was his mother, it was starting to have a negative effect on him. I just knew something had to change somewhere. Last year when we were in Canada, I told Vince what was going on and that my son was going through a really difficult time. But the teen years are just a terrible time for children. You really need to be there because peer pressure at school is one of the hardest things that they're facing now, and people offering them drugs, and kids carrying guns to school. It's just outrageously terrifying because all these kids are there, and my son's there, and look at what I'm doing. I'm just egging him on and egging him on. That's about the only thing that ever really worried me about my roles. He's happy that I'm out. He's excited that I'm going to get a beauty salon because he's thinking about the girls coming over, and he can watch the girls and stuff like that. He's quite a young man. He lives in Morgan City, Louisiana with his daddy. His name is Jared.

Clark: Do you think your job caused problems with your marriages?

Martel: In any relationship, it's something that takes time to build. All three of my marriages were spontaneous. I was probably married to my second husband, Jared's father, three and a half years. That was longer than I've ever had a relationship with anyone. Don't ask me why. (laughs) The people that are in the wrestling business are kind of like gypsies. And the people that are their spouses, it takes somebody really strong to be behind someone that's never there. My second husband, his name is LeRoy, it was hard for him. He knew what I wanted to do but he couldn't comprehend living out of suitcase. So when we divorced, he was rewarded custody of Jared. And I didn't contest the divorce because I wanted Jared to have a stable home also, but I knew at the time that I was not stable enough to give him that. And the things that I wanted to give him, if I'd just stayed there and been a mother, I never would have been able to give them to him. But everything's worked out. My ex-husband is remarried to a lady--I couldn't have found a better person than Pat. We get along and she's just a great person. She really loves Jared. There's times that she's been there for him when I couldn't be or that I chose not to be because of my profession.

Clark: Could you describe yourself as a person?

Martel: I'm a very outgoing person. (laughs) It's crazy, I like to see people smile. I'm not really demanding in a lot of areas. I'm very demanding in honesty because I think if you tell one small lie, then you've got to back it up by a few more, and sooner or later, all of them are going to start piling up on you. I couldn't remember telling so many lies anyway. I'm outgoing, I like to do things outside. I'm very compassionate. I work with a lot of kids with a kids hospital here in Birmingham. I like being around people older than I am because I feel that I can learn from them. When I told you that I had my nurse's aide license, that was one of the best things. I liked working in a nursing home because I met these people that were born in the late 1800s, before the turn of 1900, and they could remember not ever having cars, and they got around by horse and buggy. That always fascinated me and I always enjoyed being around people that I could learn from. I think I'm really demanding of myself. I don't ask anything of anybody else that I don't ask of myself or that I wouldn't do or can't do myself. (laughs) It's hard to make a self-analysis. I value honesty within my friendships. You can't have any kind of relationship with anyone without being honest in there because if you have the type of relationship where you have to lie someone, then that's not friendship. I'm the type of person, I'll believe someone and I'll befriend them, and until they screw me over or they lie to me, I'm their friend for life. I don't go by what other people say about people. I treat a person the way that they treat me. I like to treat people the way I like to be treated. I think it's important. Also, what goes around, comes around. If you're being deceitful and not honest with everybody, that's what's going to come back to you. People can see through that kind of thing.

Clark: How would you describe the relationship you have with your mother? Are you like best friends?

Martel: Yeah. There's not a subject on the face of the earth that I can't talk with my mother about. Not one subject in the world. I can talk to my mom about anything. I moved back home and it's kind of nice to be here with her because she's kind of like getting to know me and I'm getting to do a lot of things around the house that I haven't been able to. She gives me my privacy. She's never, ever been one to say, "Well, I told you so," and she's never been one to butt in. She's always let me make my decisions, regardless of whether they're right or wrong, because she feels the only way I'm going to learn something is if I experience it for myself. And because I'm hardheaded too. If somebody told me something can't be done, I'd say, "Well, why not?" "Well, you can't do something." I say watch me. I've just always been like that--real hardheaded. I get it from her.

Clark: Did your mother really influence you to get into wrestling?

Martel: She was actually the one who initiated me getting interested in it. She had the initial combination there, bringing us together, and then it just took off from there. I said, "Hell, if I could be a clown and paint my face and go out and make people happy, I could get into some other type of entertainment." And, boy, did I do it! My mom said, "Whatever you want to do, do it. But do it with everything you've got, be honest, and work your hardest." Because somebody can never condemn me for that. She's all I got, besides my son. But each and everyone of us only has one mother and father, and she's all I got because I never met my father.

Clark: Do you think growing up without a father has effected you?

Martel: I think that may have to do with some of the decisions on bad marriages. Without having a father figure around to warn me against these things or to give me advice where my mom let me make my own decisions. Maybe it could have but I'm really not sure because it was never there to begin with. But that's why when I got a divorce from my ex-husband, I realized what it was like for me growing up without a father, amidst having a little boy, and I knew that he could be a better parent at that point in time than I could. I couldn't give him the stability and the things a little boy needs while growing up. It was painful and probably selfish, but I made the decision that I thought was best for him at the time. As I do each and every time.

Clark: Did you marry very young? And do you think not having a father had anything to do with that?

Martel: The first time I was 16, the next time I was 19, and I was 32. Maybe so, that could have been it. But I wanted to get out. I was always real gung ho on getting out of the house and getting away. I was always a rebel. I still am, but it's just calmed down to a more mature nature now. But that could have had a lot to do with it, I think. But I wanted to see everything I could see, I wanted to see what was in the world, and I wanted to see everybody that I could see in the world, and what kind of people were every place in the world. As far as I was

concerned, there wasn't anything or nobody that was going to stop me.

Clark: Going back to wrestling, who are some of the people that you admired or looked up to in the wrestling business, or formed friendships with?

Martel: Frank Brody was a friend of mine for 16 years. I saw him three to six months prior to his death in Puerto Rico. I knew him for a long, long time. He was, in a sense, a father figure to me. When I first met him in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, I was probably 15, 16. All the other wrestlers were just reading regular magazines and everything, but he always carried around a Wall Street Journal. That always struck me as something different. I said, "This man has some brains, maybe I can learn something from him." But in turn trying to learn from him, we formed a friendship, which lasted up until that thing happened in Puerto Rico. I won't work in Puerto Rico. I turned down a job to go to Puerto Rico because one of the buildings where the shows would be was where he was killed. Again, out of respect, because the guy that killed him is still running around. The thought of that wonderful man's wife and beautiful little boy growing up without a father, it depresses me. It's a very terrible thing, and I really don't want anything to do with those people. I never really had any desire whatsoever to go to Puerto Rico anyway, so that just topped it off. Buddy Rogers, because he was wonderful and gave me the best compliment I ever had from anyone in this business. Ric Flair, he'll have a place in my heart forever and ever. Hulk Hogan, I've known him probably 12, 13 years. I met Hogan when he was Terry Bollea, and Eddie Bollea (Brutus Beefcake), they were the Boulder Brothers from Memphis, Tennessee. This is around the time right before I started in the wrestling school. Hogan's always been a friend, a work associate. I think that he's brought wrestling to a plateau, where it never was before, and I don't think it will ever really get that far again. There will never be another Hulk Hogan.

Clark: How was it to work with him?

Martel: It was a very nice, warm atmosphere anytime you were around him. He has this thing about him, you can relax. I was really nervous at first. He said, "Come on, lighten up." I sat back and I watched him in the AWA, and I saw how quickly he caught on. I always knew that he was going to be someone great, I really did. You could just tell from being around him, and he has a wonderful business sense and is an exceptionally wonderful father and husband to his wife and children. His parents, Ruth and Pete, they're wonderful. His biggest love is his children, I think. He'll always have a place in my heart also. I must have an awful big heart because I sure do have a lot of people in it.

Clark: Is there anyone else who you admired or looked up to?

Martel: Andre the Giant. On my first trip to France with Andre I went out drinking the night before. I was in a hotel and I missed my wake-up call. Andre hated to wait on anybody. He hated it. Boy, he came up there and he said, "Get your ass up and out of bed. You're making everybody wait on you. You didn't even get your wake-up call, you're phone's off the hook. Either you drink and go out with the boys or you keep it strictly business and don't drink. You cannot do a job and drink also. You choose one of the two. Now, get your ass up." At the time I don't think it sank in just how important my job actually was. He didn't talk to me for like two weeks. But what he said sunk in because I realized how much I had riding on me. My job was very important, and I didn't realize the responsibility I had taken on until that time. Sometimes it takes a little jar to get you going. I miss him. Kerry Von Erich was wonderful too. You never saw Kerry without a smile. If somebody was down, he was always trying to bring him back up. He was just great. I really, really miss him. He was real close to Mike McGuirk and Big Bossman and myself. We used to all go out all the time when we were together, which was rarely because we were always on different ends of the country. The way I'm thinking, maybe God needed Kerry up in heaven more than here.

Clark: Just like males in the wrestling business have felt a tremendous pressure to get bigger by using steroids, did you ever use steroids or do anything else to enhance yourself?

Martel: No. Do I look like I've ever taken a steroid? (laughs) Here's what I've got to say about steroids. I think the people are adults. And adults have to make their own decisions. The decisions that they make they have to live with and they have to be responsible for. I've never been what you really call a bodybuilder. I do enough to keep myself in shape. But I think whatever everybody else does is their own business. I try not to stick my nose in it, to be honest. That's how I stayed working for the WWF for six years. As long as their decisions don't effect me or my family or my job or anything, what they do in their own privacy is their business. That might seem like I'm getting out of the question, but actually it's not, I'm that way with anything. It doesn't matter whether I agree with them or not, and they could be my best friends, but some of the things they choose to do I may not approve of, but as long as it doesn't effect me, I don't care because they're the ones that are going to have to live with what they're doing.

Clark: Are you looking towards getting married again or building a family in the future?

Martel: No, I don't think so. Right now I'm still business oriented as far as getting back into school and getting my license. I'm not going to say never, because never is a long, long time. There's not anybody in my life right now. I'm just kind of getting used to being a normal person again. It's very nice. I really missed it a lot. But I was able to accomplish a lot of things that I'm really proud of.

Clark: Do you have any regrets in your life?

Martel: I regret not finishing beauty school when I started it because I had less than 200 hours to finish. I think with all the TV and the exposure that I've had in the last 13 years and all the places that I've been, I think that will really help me as far as being a good businesswoman and being able to serve the public in a totally different manner than they're accustomed to seeing me. I regret my three marriages.

Clark: Is there anything else, just on any subject in life, that you have very strong feelings about?

Martel: I feel very strongly about life itself. I think that each and every day that goes by you should cherish it and take care of it because you never know when it's not going to be there anymore. It's just like Buddy Rogers, Kerry Von Erich, Frank Brody. I think everybody should just take care of what they have and re-evaluate when they start thinking about screwing up. I think they should cherish every moment because you never know when it's not going to be there anymore. Does that sound corny?

Clark: No, it's a good, positive attitude. I should learn a little.

Martel: Ah, you! The other thing I was thinking about was that you had asked me about people in the business that were the most memorable to me. I named off a few, but after I got into this business it was really strange because of the close-knitness of the whole wrestling world itself. Each and every person that I met at one time or another had some type of impact on my life, especially the last six years and working so closely with everyone in the WWF. I didn't mention Mr. Fuji. Anytime I needed somebody to talk to, he was always there no matter if it was a woman problem or a professional problem. Any topic that was possibly bothering me at the time I was able to talk to him about. The same goes for each and everyone that I worked with, at one point or another each of them helped enhance my life to the fullest. I'm writing a book with my girlfriend Mary Ann Ryan, who has a degree in journalism in Chicago, and that's probably going to come out in the next year. That book will go more into detail about different things that happened to me over the last 13 years. Mary Ann, Kathy (Fitzpatrick), and Mike McGuirk have probably been my best friends. Each and

everyone, regardless of their characters and what people think of them, they're human beings and they're very caring people. It's really terrible because people think that once they get a certain age sometimes they have no more to learn, that they know everything. I've always thought and my mother has always taught me to always keep my mind open to new things. You're never too old to learn something new. But I also just wanted to say, to all of the men and women of the World Wrestling Federation, the six years that I spent with them were the most fabulous of my whole career and that through them I've learned and hoped that I've learned to be a better person and a better judge of things to come in my future. To each and everyone of them, I just want to tell them all thanks. And I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to say these things and to express my feelings.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

*Jim Cornette formed a working relationship with the WWF which resulted in him debuting at the Monday Night Raw television tapings in Alexandria Bay, NY on 7/25 as the American advisor for Yokozuna (alongside Mr. Fuji) to build more heat around the champion leading into the match at SummerSlam against Lex Luger. Cornette had been talking to Bruce Prichard for a week or two setting up the arrangement that they've worked out, which will be a situation similar to the WWF's agreement that they had/have with Jerry Jarrett and the USWA. There will be some talent exchanges between SMW and the WWF, starting with Cornette and The Heavenly Bodies. They will be wrestling against The Steiner Brothers at SummerSlam because Headshrinker Fatu is unable to wrestle because of an injury suffered outside of the ring. The Bodies and Cornette were at the TV tapings in Utica, NY on 7/26 and worked squash matches that will air on the syndicated Superstars program and lost by DQ to The Steiners in a warmup match for the 8/30 PPV. Cornette came out many times in Utica and got tremendous heat from the crowd. He called the Bodies the best tag team and that they could beat anybody in the WWF. Then during an anti-America interview with Yokozuna, Fuji, and Cornette; Randy Savage and many other babyfaces including Razor Ramon, Steiners, Smoking Gunns, M.O.M., and The Bushwackers came out to patriotic music and they paraded around the ring in what was described as quite a spectacle. Cornette kept the deal pretty quiet as he only informed the Bodies, Tim Horner, and Sandy Scott of what he was going to be doing. Cornette's debut with the Bodies and Yokozuna will air 8/2 on Raw.

*As you can see by the calendar on the back page, the WWF canceled many of their scheduled August dates as they will only be running one show a night after the weekend of 8/15. There will be a lot of talent let go and there will also be some new talent being brought in. Some talent is being let go in August, but after SummerSlam, the following are being let go (some might work a date here and there or television tapings once in awhile): Terry Taylor, Bob Backlund, Tito Santana, Mr. Fuji, Kamala, Giant Gonzalez, Virgil, Damian Demento, Ted DiBiase, Blake Beverly, Papa Shango, Steve Keirn, and Jim Duggan.

*At the Superstars television tapings in Utica, NY on 7/26 with about 5,100 fans present, TNT from Puerto Rico got a tryout and lost to Glen Ruth, Razor Ramon beat Damian Demento, Shawn Michaels beat Mr. Perfect, Van Hammer appeared, Boni Blackstone interviewed Bret Hart about his match with Jerry Lawler at SummerSlam, and all the babyfaces wore red, white, and blue wristbands in honor of Lex Luger.

*Randy Savage is moving from Florida up to Connecticut to work in the offices on the creative end. He will be involved with the booking.

*Ref Joey Marella was released and is going through alcohol rehab.

*Nassau Coliseum on 8/27 has Undertaker & Randy Savage vs Giant Gonzalez & Mr. Hughes, Shawn Michaels vs Razor Ramon, Steiners vs Headshrinkers, Mr. Perfect vs Bam Bam Bigelow, Men On a Mission vs Money Inc, Tatanka vs Doink, and 1-2-3 Kid vs Bastion Booger.

*Hershey, PA on 7/24 with about 2,100: 1-2-3 Kid beat Terry Taylor, Virgil beat Mike Sharpe, Doink the Clown beat Marty Janetty, Bastion Booger beat Kamala, Steiners beat Money Inc, Damian Demento beat Tahitian Savage, Bret Hart beat Yokozuna by DQ.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

*As of press time no changes had been made in the creative department of WCW, as far as Ole Anderson, Dusty Rhodes, Sharon Sidello, and Eric Bischoff. Terry Funk is not going to be coming in and it appears Jerry Jarrett, who was interviewed 7/27, is not going to be hired either. According to Funk's message 7/23 on The Real Wrestling Hotline, he was offered nearly $500,000 a year with a five year no-cut contract.

*TV tapings for World Wide in Huntsville, AL on 7/21: Erik Watts turned heel after he attacked his partner Frankie Lancaster during their squash match against The Hollywood Blonds and then beat Lancaster in a singles match. In presumably the final Flair for the Gold segment that will air around 8/20, Rick Rude got into a confrontation with Fifi and then nailed Ric Flair with the NWA title and gave him the Rude Awakening, which resulted in Flair being carried out. The Nasty Boys beat Chris Benoit & Bobby Eaton in what will be their debut on TV.

*Ted Turner met with Bill Shaw and Bob Dhue this past week and reassured them that his vast empire would always have a pro wrestling company and that more attention and focus will be placed on WCW.

*Eric Bischoff and other WCW officials are down in Orlando, FL negotiating for a long-term deal to tape World Wide down there, airing them many months in advance. They retun for four days in November.

*According to the 7/10 *Marietta Daily Journal* of GA, Barry Windham is being sued by a Cobb County woman over an incident that occurred on 4/2 at his apartment complex in Marietta where she says he punched her in the face with his fist maliciously and with the intent to injure.

*Van Hammer and Johnny Gunn are history.

THE INDEPENDENT SCENE

*Tod Gordon and Eddie Gilbert's ECW has TV tapings on 8/7 and 8/8 at their arena in Philly with Stan Hansen, Don Muroco, Jimmy Snuka, Tito Santana (just 8/8), Shane Douglas, Ivan & Vladimir Koloff, Paul E Dangerously, and Sensational Sherri. UltraClash '93 at ECW Arena on 9/18 will feature Abdullah the Butcher, Hansen, Gilbert and another in a tag match and J.T. Smith vs Dark Patriot in a scaffold match. Rockin Rebel, Johnny Hotbody, and Stevie Wonderful were fired.

*Hulk Hogan and Jake Roberts are touring New Japan 9/20 to 9/26.

*Tommy Dee is running a show at the Cowtown Rodeo in Woodstown, NJ on 8/19 with Jake Roberts vs Eddie Gilbert, Demolition Ax & Blast vs Tito Santana & S.D. Jones, and Wahoo McDaniel vs Jimmy Snuka.

*LMLW has a show at Garden State Park in Cherry Hill, NJ on 8/28 with Wendi Richter, Misty Blue, Heidi Lee Morgan, Rusty Thomas, Bambi, Candi Devine, and interviews with Oliver Humperdink.

FLYER FAN FARE

*Alan Cookson at 851 Cherry Ave. #15-109, San Bruno, CA 94066 has a tape list available for a SASE... Matt Lawrence of 12 Belden Rd., Dover, MA 02030 is looking for correspondents and a weekly supplier of SMW, USWA, and ECW tapes... David Doyle of 10 Lakeview Ave., Braintree, MA 02184 publishes the interesting Moonsault Press for $1 an issue... Jim Green at 330 Bishop Ct, Westminster, MD 21157 wants the 5/5 Funk-Onita match... Tommy Fierro of 14 Terrace Ave., West Paterson, NJ 07424 publishes Ringside Wrestling for $5 per 4 issues.

EDITOR'S NOTES

*Due to the results of the readers poll that was conducted recently, this newsletter will focus on timely, newsworthy and informative interviews and the news sections will still be timely but will be condensed. Also, the color photo has been eliminated and the newsletter will be ten or twelve pages in length from this point foreword. If anyone is upset with the changes (since the advertised price included a color photo), I will refund your money--$1.50 per # of issues remaining--$2.50 for readers outside of North America. Sorry if anyone is dissatisfied with these changes, but I tried to find a happy medium.

In an effort to improve the quality of this newsletter, we would appreciate it if you could please phone in a report of any live shows you attend after the event is held to our phoneline (215)566-3852 at any and all hours of the day. Fax messages can be sent to (215)566-3852 with notification before doing so. THANK YOU.

All interviews are transcribed verbatim and the opinions of the subject do not necessarily represent the opinions of the editor or this newsletter.

The Wrestling Flyer Newsletter is a biweekly publication available by subscription at $1.50 ($2.50 for orders outside of North America) per issue, $6 for 4 issues, $12 for 8 issues. Send all subscription orders, merchandise orders, letters, news, articles, and all other inquiries to: WRESTLING FLYER NEWSLETTER, PO BOX 283, WALLINGFORD, PA 19086. Please make all payments (cash, checks, money orders) payable to the editor, John Clark. THANK YOU.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
WCW 2 CENTER STAGE* WWF BERLIN GERMANY	WCW 3 JASPER GA WWF EDINBURGH SCOTLAND	4 WWF LONDON ENGLAND	WCW 5 ELBERTON GA WWF TOULON FRANCE	WCW 6 ATTALLA GA WWF SHEFFIELD ENGLAND	7 WCW GAINESVILLE GA VIDALIA GA	8
9 WCW CENTER STAGE*	10 WCW MACON GA*	11	12 WCW COLUMBIA SC FLORENCE AL WWF PROVIDENCE RI	WCW 13 WINSTON-SALEM NC BLOOMFIELD IN WWF NEW YORK NY WILDWOOD NJ	WCW 14 CHARLOTTE NC MARTINSVILLE IN WWF HARTFORD CT ASBURY PARK NJ	WCW 15 ATLANTA GA TIPTON IN WWF WORCESTER MA WILTON CT
16 WCW BLOOMINGTON IN WWF POUGHKEEPSIE NY*	17 WWF WHITE PLAINS NY*	18 WCW DAYTONA BEACH FL# WWF LOWELL MA*	19 WCW KINGSPORT TN WWF STOCKTON CA	WCW 20 PALATKA FL BLUEFIELD WV WWF SAN FRANCISCO CA	WCW 21 JACKSONVILLE FL CHARLESTON WV WWF ANAHEIM CA	WCW 22 ORLANDO FL WILLIAMSVILLE WV WWF SAN ANTONIO TX
23 WCW MELBOURNE FL TBA	24 WCW SEBRING FL	25 WCW FORT PIERCE FL	26 WCW SARASOTA FL OXFORD AL	WCW 27 ST PETERSBURG FL CLARKSDALE MS WWF UNIONDALE NY	28 WCW PASCAGOULA MS WWF NIAGRA FALLS NY	WCW 29 SAN ANTONIO TX ORANGE BEACH AL WWF LONDON ON
WCW 30 CENTER STAGE* WWF AUBURN HILLS MI#	31 WWF GRAND RAPIDS MI*	WCW september 1 DOTHAN AL* WWF SAGINAW MI*	2	3 WCW GAINESVILLE GA*	4	5
6 WWF ALLENTOWN PA	7 WCW CENTER STAGE* WWF HALIFAX NS	8 WWF SYDNEY NS	WCW 9 MARIANNA FL ELLIJAY GA WWF MONCTON NB	10 WCW PERRY FL WWF FREDERICTON NB	11 WCW QUINCY FL WWF BOSTON MA	WCW 12 ASHEVILLE NC TBA WWF SPRINGFIELD MA
WCW 13 GAINESVILLE GA* WWF MANHATTAN CENTER*	14	15	16 WCW TBA	WCW 17 DALLAS TX WWF N CHARLESTON SC	WCW 18 TBA WWF FLORENCE SC	WCW 19 HOUSTON TX# WWF AUGUSTA GA
20	21	22 WCW CENTER STAGE*	23 WCW GREENVILLE SC TBA	WCW 24 ROANOKE VA GAINESVILLE GA WWF ROSEMONT IL	WCW 25 FORT BRAGG NC HOGANSVILLE GA WWF NEW YORK NY	WCW 26 COLUMBIA SC TBA WWF PHILADELPHIA PA
27 WWF NEW HAVEN CT*	28 WWF CONCORD NH*	WCW 29 CENTER STAGE* WWF FITCHBURG MA*	WCW 30 TBA WWF FRESNO CA			

TBA-TO BE ANNOUNCED
*-TV TAPING
#-PPV OR CLASH

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